



SPOKANE COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
SHERIFF OZZIE D. KNEZOVICH

"In partnership with the community -  
Dedicated to your safety"

December 7, 2018

Muck Rock News  
Attention: Paxtyn Merten  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: *Public Records Request Received – December 3, 2018*

Dear Ms. Merten,

This correspondence acknowledges receipt of your public records request ("PRR") wherein you requested the following:

Any and all statistics, data, reports, audits, policies, and procedures pertaining to the following items regarding sexual assault evidence collection (SAEC) kits – also known as "rape kits":

1. All standard operating procedures regarding the SAEC process
2. Any written policies or procedures regarding department practices on the acquisition or handling of rape kit evidence, including protocols for its collection, testing, and delegation and transfer to all other relevant locations, laboratories, or agencies
3. The number of kits collected and booked in to evidence from the period of January 1, 2000 through the date this request is processed
4. The number of kits that have been processed by a public or private crime or forensic laboratory or equivalent processing location from the period of January 1, 2000 through the date this request is processed
5. The number of unprocessed kits in any storage facilities currently under the department's jurisdiction and control, including those held by medical personnel or at external laboratory locations
6. Any materials regarding the status or ultimate disposition of cases in which a kit was collected. Please include all available segregable data.
7. All audits involving this agency regarding the collection of backlog of SAEC kits
8. All proposed alterations or yet-to-be-implemented changes to the policies and procedures regarding the collection, testing, and use of SAEC kits

Your request has been assigned Public Records Request Number Merten 2018-01.

In regard to Item 1 and 2 of your request, the information you are requesting (Policy 616: Sexual Assault Investigations) can be found on the Spokane County Sheriff's Office website at [www.spokanesheriff.org](http://www.spokanesheriff.org). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on Policy Manual. Please note, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office does not test rape kits; this is done by the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab.

In regard to Item 3 and 5 of your request, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office has no responsive records to satisfy these items of your request. By way of further explanation, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office does not keep a list or documentation of the number of rape kits booked into evidence. This information would be maintained by the Spokane Police Department, as they own and maintain the Property Evidence Facility. The Spokane County Sheriff's Office contracts with them for the storage and safekeeping of evidence/property. I have forwarded your request to Spokane Police Department. For further information regarding this item of your request, your request is to be directed to:

Spokane County/City Records Department  
Attention: Public Disclosure  
1100 West Mallon Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99260

Email: [eraspdrir@spokanepolice.org](mailto:eraspdrir@spokanepolice.org)

In regard to Item 4 of your request, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office has no responsive records to satisfy this item of your request. By way of further explanation, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office does not make the determination whether or not a public or private crime laboratory is used to process rape kits. This determination is decided by the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab. Further, as of 2015, House Bill 1068 and RCW 70.125.090: *Sexual assault examination kit – Request for laboratory examination – Report to the legislature* requires all rape kits are to be transferred to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab.

In regard to Item 6 of your request, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office has no responsive records to satisfy this item of your request. I have forwarded your request to the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review and processing. For further information regarding this request, and all other such requests, your requests are to be directed to:

Spokane County Prosecutor's Office  
Attention: Public Records Officer  
1116 W. Broadway Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99260

In regard to Item 7 of your request, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office has no responsive records to satisfy this item of your request. Further, as of 2015, House Bill 1068 and RCW 70.125.090: *Sexual assault examination kit – Request for laboratory examination – Report to the legislature* requires all rape kits are to be transferred to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab.

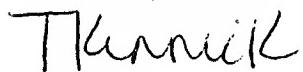
In regard to Item 8 of your request, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office has no responsive records to satisfy this item of your request.

Finally, may I suggest you direct your request to the Washington State Patrol for more information reference rape kits. They may be reached by writing:

Washington State Patrol  
Attention: WSP Public Records Manager  
PO Box 42631  
Olympia, Washington 98504-2631

This is the Spokane County Sheriff's Office final, definitive response to this request and the file regarding this matter is considered closed.

Respectfully,  
OZZIE D. KNEZOVICH – SHERIFF

  
T. Kinnick  
Sheriff Technical Assistant III  
Public Disclosure